

Kindly add the following new claims 15-28.

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15. A steering wheel comprising:
an annular rim section including:
a core; and
arcuate rim elements mounted on said core, each of said rim elements being formed of thermosoftening synthetic resin material blended with woodmeal so as to form an annular streak pattern on an outer surface of each of said rim elements.

16. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said thermosoftening synthetic resin material includes a color pigment blended therein such that said annular streak pattern on said outer surface of each of said rim elements includes annular streaks of different colors.

17. The steering wheel of claim 16, wherein said rim section has surface unevenness.

18. The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising a boss section and a spoke section, said annular rim section being connected to said boss section by said spoke section.

19. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include a front-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, and include a rear-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, said core being fit into said central longitudinal groove of each of said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element so as to mount said rim elements on said core.

20. The steering wheel of claim 19, wherein said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element are mounted on said core so as to form an annular seam between said front-side rim element and said rear-side rim element, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam.

21. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include an outer-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, and include an inner-side rim element having a central longitudinal groove, said core being fit into said central longitudinal groove of each of said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element so as to mount said rim elements on said core.

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22. The steering wheel of claim 21, wherein said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element are mounted on said core so as to form an annular seam between said outer-side rim element and said inner side-side rim element, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam

23. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements are mounted on said core so as to form a seam between said arcuate rim elements, the steering wheel further comprising a cover member mounted on said seam.

24. The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising a coating covering said arcuate rim elements.

25. The steering wheel of claim 24, wherein said protective coating covers only a front-side portion of said arcuate rim elements.

26. The steering wheel of claim 15, further comprising transfer print on a front-side of said annular rim section.

27. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said annular rim section further includes a grip portion formed of flexible urethane and mounted on said core.

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28. The steering wheel of claim 15, wherein said arcuate rim elements include a first rim element having a longitudinal notch formed therein for receiving said core, and a second rim element having a thickness substantially equal to a diameter of said core and being fitted into said notch of said first rim element after said core--